GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2156
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2000
INDIANS IN RUSSIAN JAILS
TUFANI SAROJ

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether some Indian citizens are in jails of the Russia and other countries disintegrated from Russia;

(b) if so, the number of Indian citizens imprisoned in these countries, country-wise;

(c) the period of their imprisonment and the major crimes committed by them;

(d) whether the Indian Government have made any efforts to get them releases; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (c) According to information available with Government, a total of 24 Indian nationals are currently in prisons of countries which have emanated from the disintegration of the Former Soviet Union.The terms of imprisonment of these nationals are varied, with the maximum term being 9 years. The Indian nationals have been sentenced for various crimes including burglary, physical assault, cheating, currency speculation, drug trafficking and murder.

(d) & (e) As soon as the Indian Embassies in the concerned countries have been intimated of arrests, detention or sentencing of any Indian national, our Missions have immediately sought consular access and consular officials have been visiting those serving prison terms. Through the intervention of our Missions, cases of improvement in conditions of prisons have been reported. In some cases, the terms of sentences have been reduced and one prisoner amnestied and deported back to India. Our Missions constantly monitor the welfare of Indian nationals, even in prisons overseas.